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REMARKS

The Examiner's careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated. Applicants affirm the provisional election without traverse of claims 1-13 on October 31, 2005 in response to the Restriction Requirement.

The present invention relates to ...

Applicants have carefully reviewed the above-identified Office Action. Applicants contend that, in view of the clarifying remarks set forth herein, all bases of objection and rejection have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of the claims submitted.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The objection to claim 9 has been obviated by appropriate amendment. "Mm" is a term of art referring to Misch Metal. The term Misch Metal has been substituted for "Mm" in claim 9.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

For the reasons which follow hereinafter, the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Amendola et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,534,033) in view of Peterson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,696,806) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

Amendola et al. teach a system for hydrogen generation

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(Title). The hydrogen generation system includes a stabilized metal hydride solution/slurry and a catalyst system. The stabilized metal hydride solution/slurry comprises a metal hydride, at least one stabilizing agent, and a solvent. (See col. 3, lines 26-34). The metal hydride is a chemical hydride which reacts with water to produce hydrogen gas. (See col. 3, lines 35-63). The catalyst system comprises high surface area transition metal catalysts. (See col. 6, lines 4-35). Upon contacting the catalyst system, the chemical hydride reacts to release gaseous hydrogen which is supplied to a hydrogen consuming application such as an internal combustion engine (See col. 13, line 62 to col. 14, line 51).

Peterson et al. teach a metal hydride adsorption process for hydrogen purification (Title). The process teaches providing an impure hydrogen feed stream to a metal hydride bed whereby the hydrogen is absorbed from the feed stream and stored in metal hydride form. The impure hydrogen feed stream may be supplied from a reformation process. The hydrogen stored in metal hydride form is then desorbed from the hydrogen storage alloy and is recovered as a hydrogen product stream sans impurities. (See col. 4, lines 5-24).

In contrast, the presently pending invention claims contacting a chemical hydride slurry with a metal hydride bed thereby promoting a reaction, the reaction producing atomic hydrogen which

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is absorbed by the metal hydride bed. In the process as presently claimed, the metal hydride bed has two functions: 1) catalyze the reaction of the chemical hydride slurry with water to produce hydrogen and 2) absorb and store the hydrogen produced as a product of the reaction between the chemical hydride and water. Amendola et al. and Peterson et al. either alone or in combination do not teach a process for charging a metal hydride bed from a chemical hydride slurry or a metal hydride bed serving two functions as presently claimed. As such, the presently pending invention claims subject matter neither shown nor obvious over the cited reference and therefore Applicants respectfully request that the pending rejection be withdrawn.

For the reasons which follow hereinafter, the rejection of claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Amendola et al. in view of Peterson et al. and Rosner (U.S. Pat. No. 5,228,529) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn. Claims 5 and 13 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, which is now believed to be allowable.

For the reasons which follow hereinafter, the rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Amendola et al. in view of Peterson et al. and Ovshinsky et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,277,999) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn. Claims 8-10 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, which is now believed to be allowable.

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For the reasons which follow hereinafter, the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Amendola et al. in view of Peterson et al. and Werth (U.S. Pat. No. 5,690,902) is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn. Claim 12 depends directly from independent claim 1, which is now believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issuance.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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